REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 7-8 and 10 are amended. Claims 12-18 are new.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff Registration No. 27,078

Joel S. Armstrong Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/mlo

Date: December 22, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. Box 19928 Alexandria, Virginia 22320 Telephone: (703) 836-6400 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461